

ERIK LARSEN TODD McFARLANE



SPAWN





ERIK LARSEN & TODD McFARLANE

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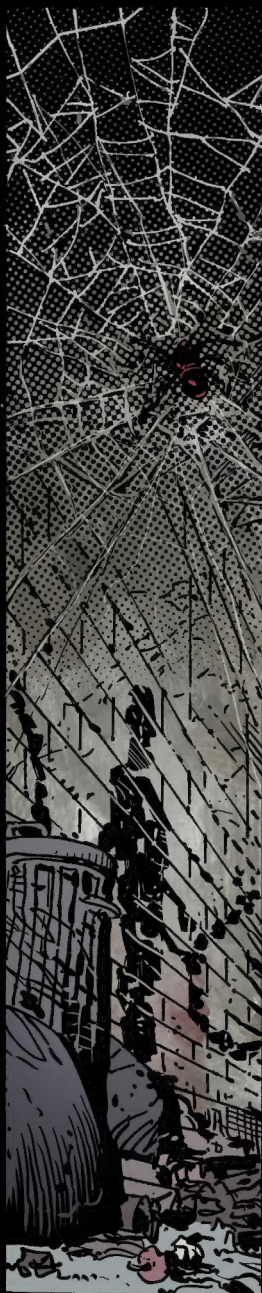
ANT created by
MARIO GULLY

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Back in the city, Al Simmons begins maneuvering his way as a human and not Hellspawn, making 'friends' with a group of men he meets at a boxing gym. Meanwhile, a demon named Decay begins terrorizing and killing unsuspecting victims in the city. Terry enlists Al's help to protect the citizens from this deadly monster. Using his old military training, Al tracks Decay and a dramatic fight ensues. At first, it seems he will not be able to fight this deadly monster, but he knows if he doesn't defeat Decay, then he will go on terrorizing the city. The final standoff between Al and Decay happens on the edge of a large building. Al gets the creature so angry he lunges at him. Simmons moves out of the way and the monster tumbles to his death.





IT'S TRYING... STRUGGLING
TO GROW. STRUGGLING
TO GET STRONGER.

BUT IT'S *NOT EVEN*
CLOSE TO BEING
READY. THAT'S
A PROBLEM.



IT'S BEEN TWO
WEEKS--I THOUGHT
IT'D BE MORE
ADVANCED THAN IT IS.


I KNOW IT WAS JUST
A SMALL SCRAP OF
COSTUME I CAME BACK
WITH*... BUT IT
SCALED-UP TO FIT MY
BODY WITHOUT MUCH
EFFORT. I ASSUMED IT
WAS NEARLY HEALED.

*Issue 260 (when he
returned from Hell)--Todd



INSTEAD IT'S BEEN
ACTING WITHOUT ANY
RHYME OR REASON, AND
I *SURE AS HELL* CAN'T
CONTROL IT!



A full-page comic book illustration of Spawn. He is a black, muscular figure with a black hood and glowing yellow eyes. He wears a black trench coat with a wide collar and a black cape. He is suspended in the air by several thick, blue, metallic chains that are attached to his wrists and ankles. The chains are draped around him, some hanging down and others looping around his body. He is positioned in the center of the frame, looking directly at the viewer. The background is a detailed, dark, and atmospheric depiction of a city street canyon, with tall buildings on either side and a cloudy sky. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

WHICH MEANS EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN PLANNING GETS PUT ON HOLD UNTIL I KNOW WHAT I'M DEALING WITH. AND THE BIZARRE THING IS, IT WON'T RESPOND THE WAY I WANT... OR EVEN COME CLOSE TO DOING WHAT IT USED TO. BUT NOW IT'S DOING SOMETHING I'VE NEVER SEEN.

LIKE IT'S TRYING TO WALK... ON ITS OWN.

SO, NOW I'VE GOT TWO THINGS I'M TRYING TO JUGGLE. TESTING THE COSTUME'S LIMITS AND STAYING ALIVE IN THE PROCESS. I GUESS I HAD TAKEN FOR GRANTED ALL THESE YEARS THAT I'D BE PROTECTED SOMEHOW. NO MATTER WHAT SHIT STORM CAME MY WAY.

AND I WAS SO READY FOR THEM. I HAD MY PLAN--I FINALLY KNEW WHAT THE RULES WERE AND HOW TO PLAY THEM. THEN THEY KILLED WANDA* THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING. BEFORE I COULD EVEN START. IT WAS LIKE THEY WERE WAITING FOR ME.

AFTER ALL MY TIME AWAY, THEY WERE SOMEHOW STILL WAITING FOR ME. LIKE **THEY KNEW** I WAS COMING BACK.**

*Spawn: Resurrection--Todd

**Issue 250--Todd



WHICH IS WHY I NEED TO KNOW
HOW MUCH I CAN TRUST MY COSTUME.
THIS 'CHAIN WALKING' IS COOL BUT I
DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL LAST.



WHICH MEANS I'LL NEED
TO LEAN ON MY MILITARY
SKILLS MORE THAN I HAD
ANTICIPATED.

IN A PERFECT WORLD, I'D
USE MY COSTUME AND MY
OWN SKILLS---TOGETHER.



BUT UNTIL I COMPREHEND WHY
THE COSTUME'S STRUGGLING
SO MUCH, I'M GOING TO
NEED A 'PLAN B.'



THAT PLAN ENTAILS MORE 'TESTING'.



IN THIS CASE, IT'S WITH PEOPLE. AT SOME POINT I'M GOING TO NEED HELP WITH MY WAR. I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT ON MY OWN. SO IT'S JUST A MATTER OF SEEING WHO I CAN TRUST WHEN THE CRUCIAL TIME COMES.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, EARL.



DON'T SWEAT IT. I APPRECIATE YOU INVITING ME IN THE FIRST PLACE. HOW'S YOUR DAY BEEN GOING?



NOT TOO BAD. JUST TRYING TO FIGURE A FEW THINGS OUT. HOW ABOUT YOU?



AS HE TALKS I LISTEN TO EVERY WORD HE USES. SEEING IF I DETECT ANYTHING THAT TELLS ME HE'S ANYTHING BUT HONEST.

HE'S EX-NAVY, SO MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY HE'S BEEN THROUGH THE MEAT GRINDER. WHICH IS A GOOD START.



YOU GENTLEMEN READY TO ORDER?

WE NEED A COUPLE MORE MINUTES IF YOU DON'T MIND?



EARL SEEMS TO BE A BIT OF A LOST SOUL. THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD THING.



SO IT WAS 9/11 THAT CAUSED YOU TO JOIN?

YEAH. ME AND A BUNCH OF OTHERS. I COULDN'T STAND BY AND DO NOTHING SO I DID THE ONLY THING THAT MADE SENSE.

I UNDERSTAND.

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING? YOU MARRIED?



NO. THOUGHT ABOUT IT ONCE, WITH A SPECTACULAR LADY, BUT I KNEW DEEP DOWN--IN MY GUT--I WASN'T THE MARRYING KIND OF GUY. NOT BECAUSE I WANTED OTHER LADIES. JUST, I DON'T KNOW...

GUESS I JUST NEEDED TO WALK MY OWN PATH. DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO PUT UP WITH ALL I'VE GOT. HOW ABOUT YOU? YOU MARRIED?



USED TO BE. SHE... SHE PASSED AWAY RECENTLY.*

*Issue #262 --Todd



SORRY TO HEAR THAT, AL.

THANKS, BUT, TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOURSELF.

I CONTINUE TO TEST HIM.

BECAUSE IF I'M GOING TO WIN
THIS WAR I'M ABOUT TO
FIGHT... I'M GOING TO NEED

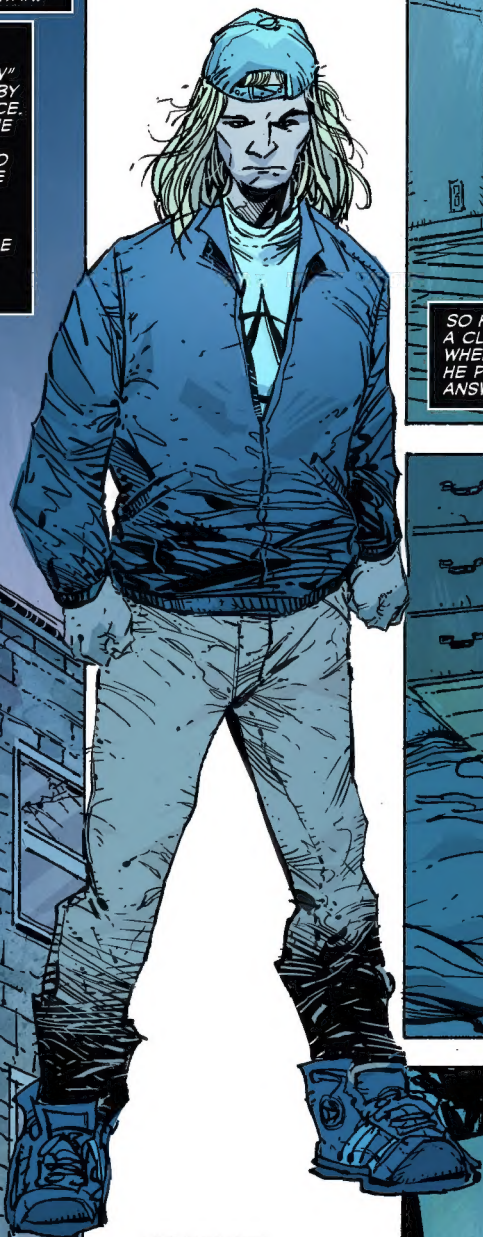
ALLIES.



BRACKATHOOM!

SINCE HIS RECENT RETURN, AL SIMMONS HAS BEEN LIVING IN A SMALL, UNIMPRESSIONING APARTMENT BUILDING. A PLACE WHERE HE CAN ASSESS HOW TO MOVE FORWARD IN HIS PERSONAL 'WAR.'

THE HOPE WAS FOR HIM TO BE ABLE TO "LAY LOW" UNENCUMBERED BY OUTSIDE INFLUENCE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PROBLEM HASN'T BEEN IN TRYING TO KEEP THE OUTSIDE AWAY, IT'S BEEN AVOIDING THOSE ON THE INSIDE. SPECIFICALLY, SOME OF THOSE LIVING IN THE BUILDING WITH HIM.



LIKE THIS GUY.

HIS NAME DOESN'T MATTER. HE'S JUST A PUNK WHO'S ALWAYS THOUGHT THE WORLD OWED HIM SOMETHING. IT'S NEVER CROSSED HIS MIND THAT HIS LIFE IS A BY-PRODUCT OF HUNDREDS OF SHORT-SIGHTED DECISIONS.

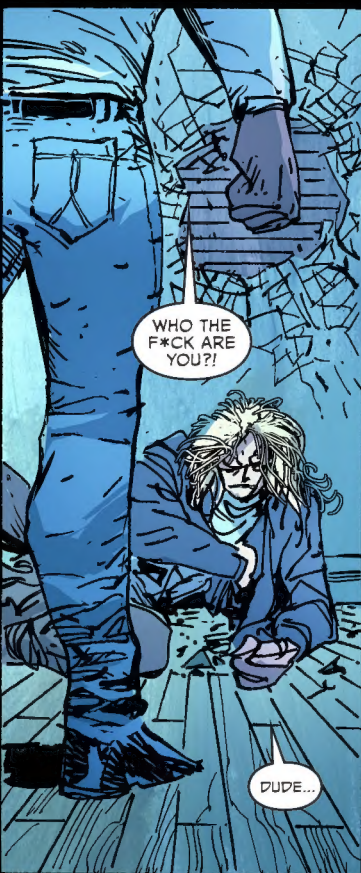
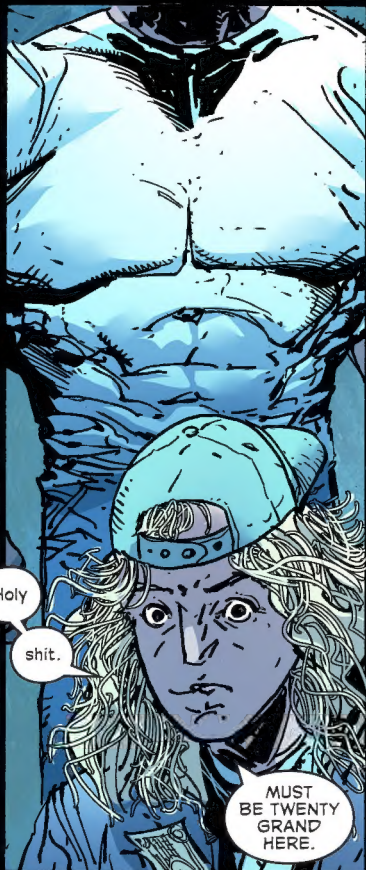
INSTEAD HE ASSUMES HE CAN DO WHATEVER 'FEELS GOOD' AT THE TIME. WHICH IS WHY HE'S NOW--UNINVITED--INSIDE AL SIMMONS' LOFT.

HE'D SEEN SIMMONS CARRYING BUNDLES OF STUFF UP AND DOWN THE STAIRS. HUGE BUNDLES AT A TIME. WONDERING WHY AL NEVER ACCEPTED HIS HELP MOVING SOME OF IT.

SO HE THOUGHT HE'D TAKE A CLOSER LOOK HIMSELF WHEN HE FOUND A SUITCASE HE PRAYED IT MIGHT BE THE ANSWER TO HIS DREAMS...

IN WHATEVER FORM THAT MIGHT BE.

CASH BEING THE BEST FORM!



EVEN WITH HIS HELL POWERS
NOW GONE, AL'S SPEED
AND SKILL HAS BEEN HONED
TO THAT OF AN ELITE ATHLETE.

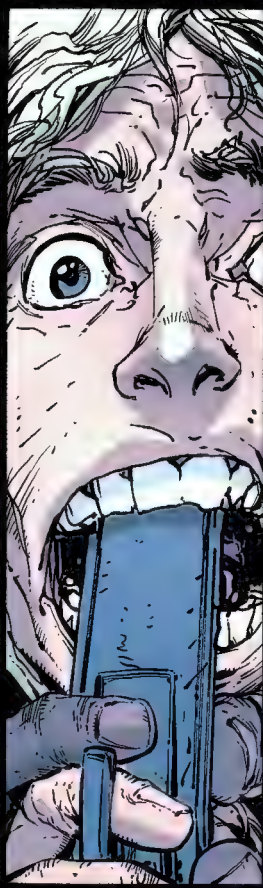
HE'S ON THE
PUNK BEFORE
HE CAN BLINK.

?



I'M
ONLY
GOING TO
SAY THIS
ONCE.

THEN
WE'RE GOING
TO DECIDE
WHETHER WE
PULL THIS
TRIGGER.



GOT
IT?

mmpf

GOOD.

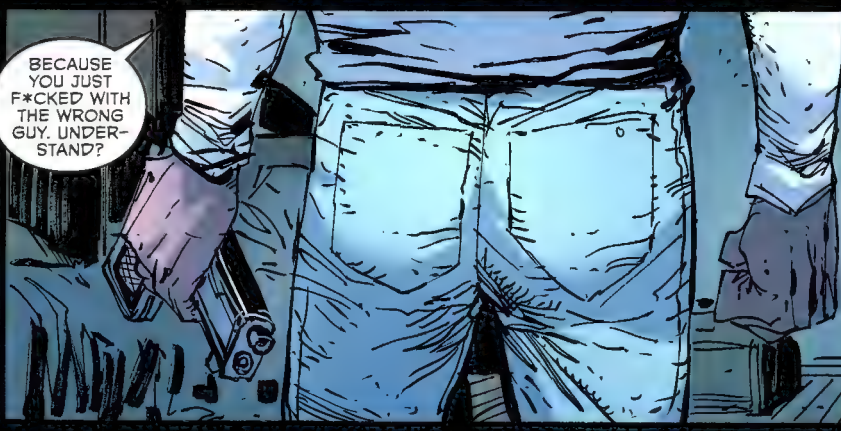
SO
HERE'S
HOW IT'S
GOING TO
WORK...

IF YOU
EVER, AND
I MEAN **EVER**,
LET ME SEE YOUR
FACE AGAIN...
YOU'RE
DEAD!



YOU'RE
GOING TO LEAVE
THIS BUILDING.
THIS CITY. THEN
THIS STATE.

AND YOU'RE
GOING TO ERASE
EVERYTHING FROM
THE LAST FEW
MINUTES FROM
YOUR MIND.

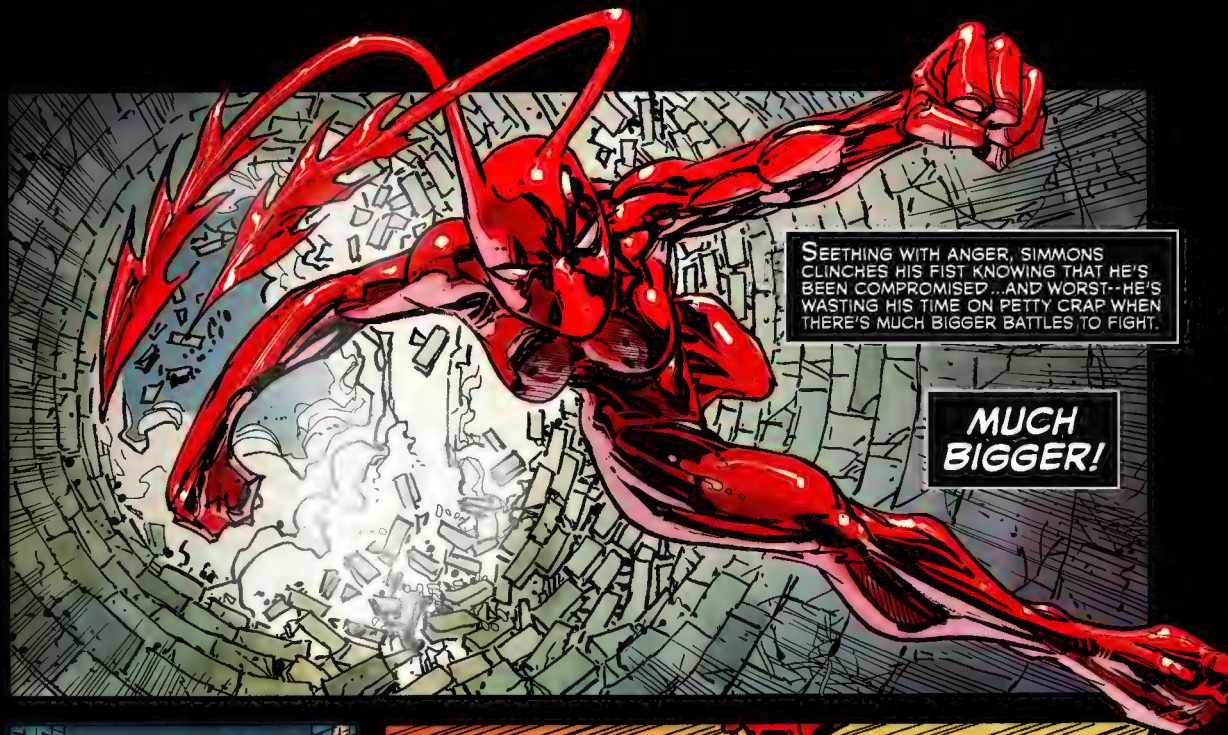


BECAUSE
YOU JUST
F*CKED WITH
THE WRONG
GUY. UNDER-
STAND?



YA.
YA.

GOOD.



SEETHING WITH ANGER, SIMMONS CLINCHES HIS FIST KNOWING HE'S BEEN COMPROMISED...AND WORST--HE'S WASTING HIS TIME ON PETTY CRAP WHEN THERE'S MUCH BIGGER BATTLES TO FIGHT.

MUCH BIGGER!



COME TO ME, CHILD.

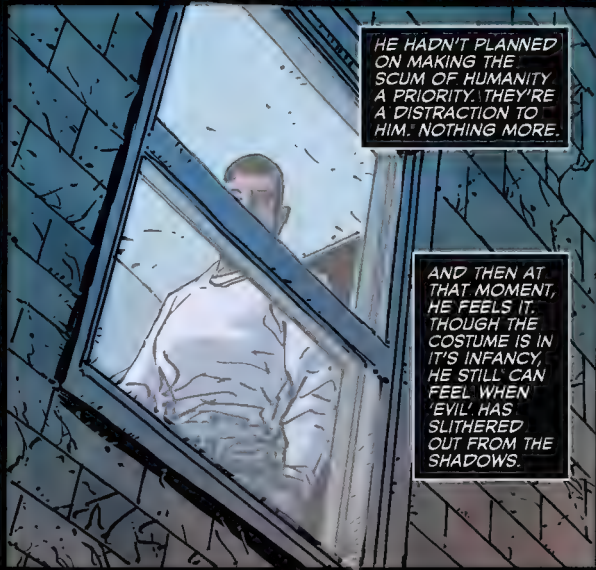


THIS FIGHT IS OVER.

HE'D HOPED THINGS WOULD BE... DIFFERENT. THAT HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO HIDE HIMSELF ALL THE TIME. THAT MAYBE HE'D HAVE A SMALL SLIVER OF NORMALITY IN HIS LIFE, SO HE COULD REST. BECAUSE HE KNOWS-- SOON--HE'LL BE TESTED HIMSELF.

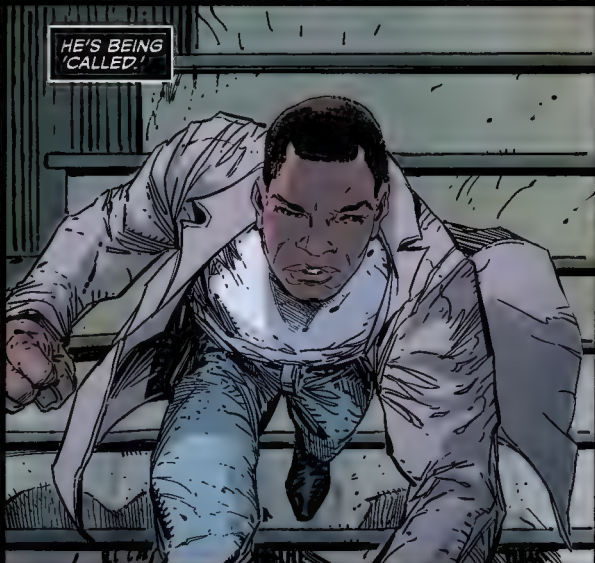


HE HADN'T PLANNED ON MAKING THE SCUM OF HUMANITY A PRIORITY. THEY'RE A DISTRACTION TO HIM. NOTHING MORE.



AND THEN AT THAT MOMENT, HE FEELS IT. THOUGH THE COSTUME IS IN ITS INFANCY, HE STILL CAN FEEL WHEN 'EVIL' HAS SLITHERED OUT FROM THE SHADOWS.

HE'S BEING CALLED.



IT TAKES HIM FIFTEEN MINUTES TO GET THERE. BY THE TIME HE DOES...



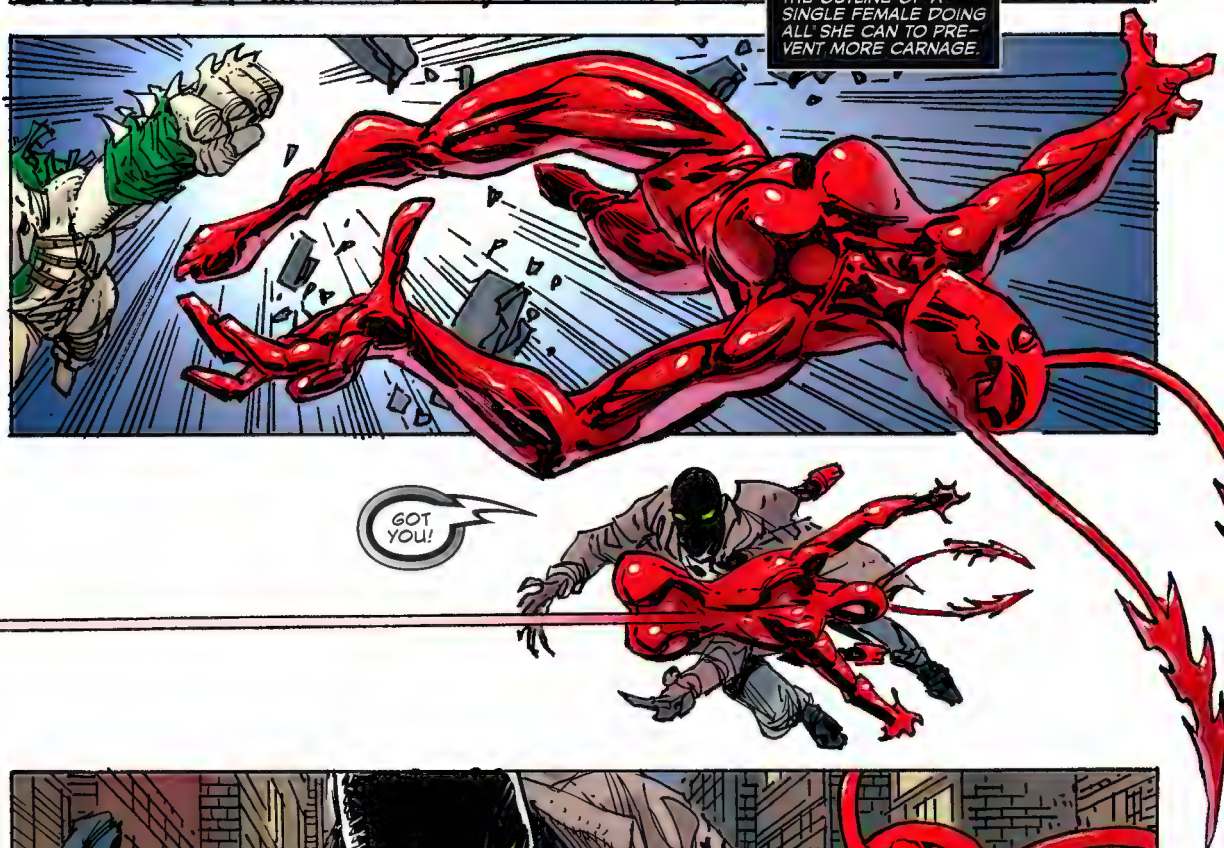
HE KNOWS THIS IS WHY HE HAS TO BE

SPAWN!



DOZENS HAVE ALREADY BEEN KILLED, INCLUDING POLICE SLAIN IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

AT THE EPICENTER OF IT ALL, APPEARS TO BE THE OUTLINE OF A SINGLE FEMALE DOING ALL SHE CAN TO PREVENT MORE CARNAGE.



GOT YOU!



SPAWN?

A QUICK EXPLANATION THAT SHE HAS HEARD ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF SPAWN OVER THE YEARS. AL IS UNINTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW OR WHY HE'S FOCUSED SOLELY ON STOPPING WHATEVER IS KILLING ALL THESE PEOPLE INSTEAD.



HIS NAME IS KING SPIDER. HE'S PART OF A CONSORTIUM THAT WANTS TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD!



WHAT?



THEY WANT THE RAPTURE. THAT WHOLE BIBLICAL THING.

THESE ARE MAD MEN WITH POWER AND MONEY AND DRIVEN BY THEIR OWN SENSE OF MORALITY.



WHAT'S THEIR PLAN?



TO POISON THE WATER SYSTEM OF EVERY MAJOR CITY IN THE U. S., STARTING HERE IN NEW YORK.



I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THEM FOR A YEAR. AND BEFORE YOU ASK, I KNOW NONE OF IT MAKES SENSE. THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM DANGEROUS...



THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT HUMAN LIFE!



INCLUDING THEIR OWN!



AND SO... AL'S TEST
STARTS!

HUMANS.

CRAZY SHITS.

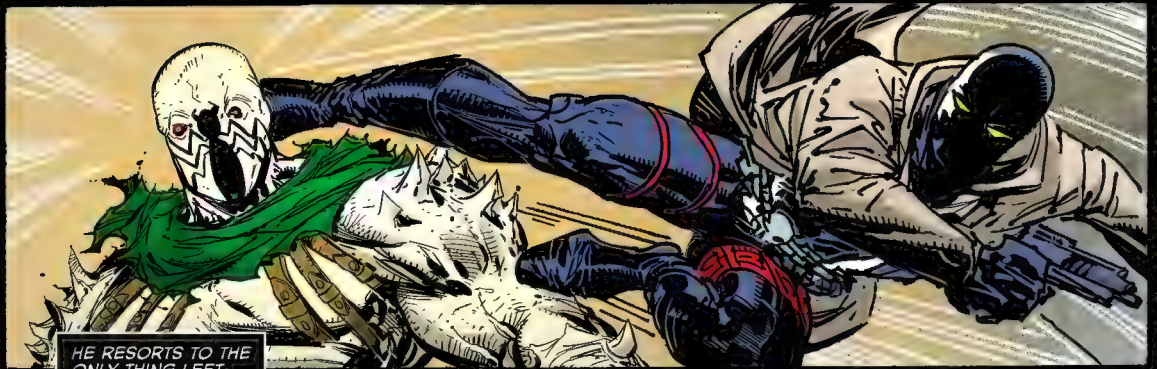
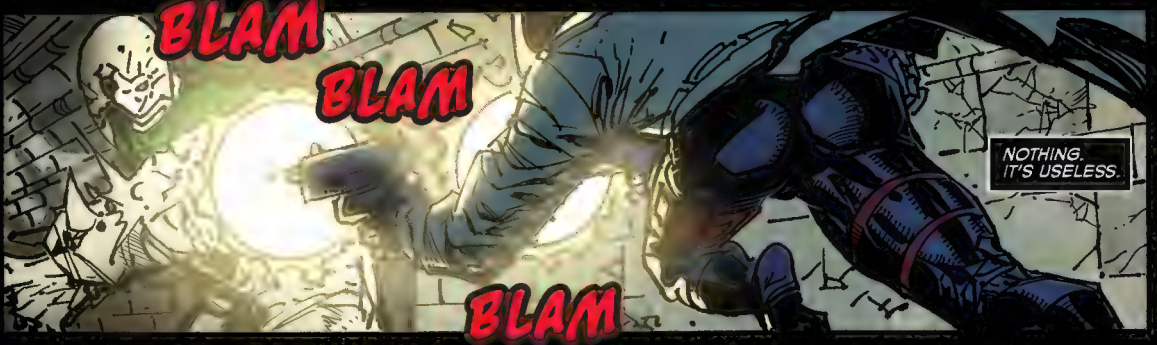
SUPER-VILLAINS.

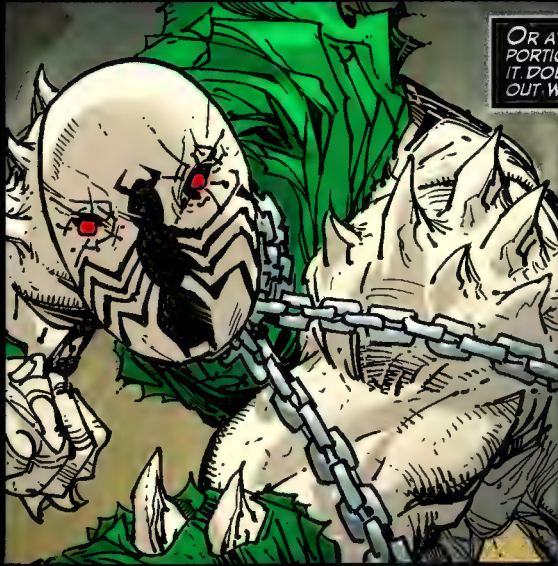
DEMONS.

ANGELS.

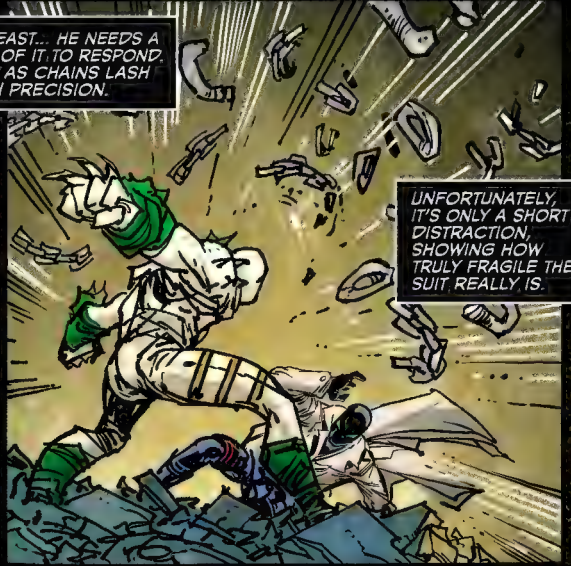
HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO
EVENTUALLY DEAL WITH
THEM ALL! THIS--WHAT
HE SEES IN FRONT OF HIM
TONIGHT--IS JUST THE
BEGINNING!!







OR AT LEAST... HE NEEDS A PORTION OF IT TO RESPOND. IT DOES, AS CHAINS LASH OUT WITH PRECISION.



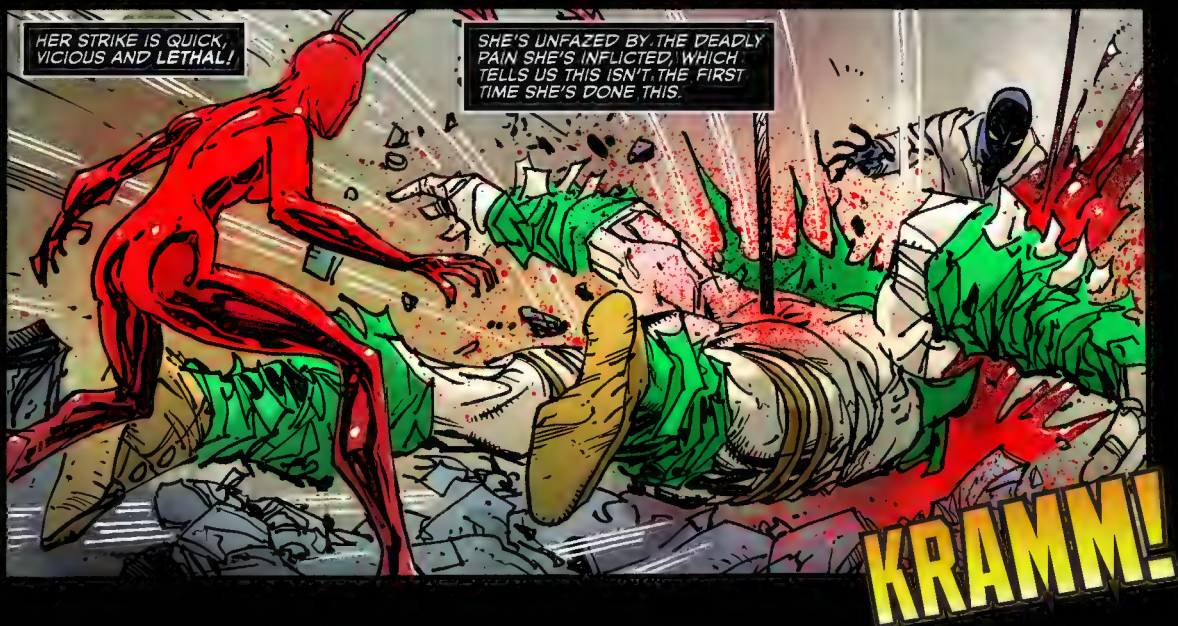
UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S ONLY A SHORT DISTRACTION, SHOWING HOW TRULY FRAGILE THE SUIT REALLY IS.

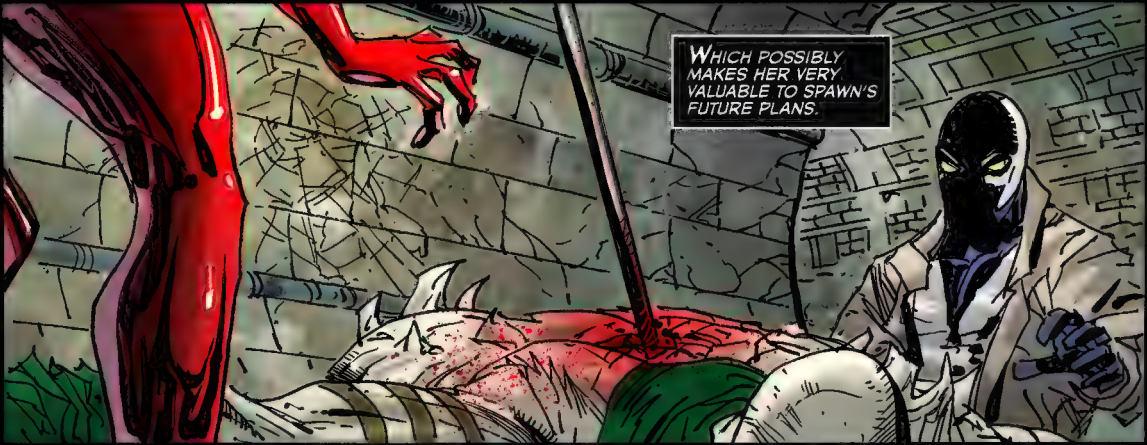


AND SO HAND TO HAND IS ALL THAT'S LEFT.



THEN SUDDENLY, IT ENDS!




A black and white comic panel showing Spawn in a trench. A large, red, muscular alien arm is reaching down towards him. A speech bubble from an unseen character is in the top right.

WHICH POSSIBLY
MAKES HER VERY
VALUABLE TO SPAWN'S
FUTURE PLANS.

A close-up black and white comic panel of Spawn's face. He has a serious expression with his yellow eyes visible. A speech bubble is in the top right.

THANKS.

FOR
THE
HELP.

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of the red alien's face. It has a menacing expression. A speech bubble is in the top left.

FROM WHAT
I HEAR, YOU'D
HAVE DONE THE
SAME. SO DON'T
SWEAT IT.

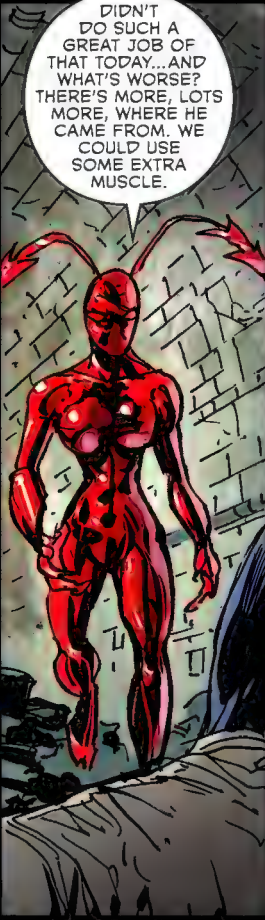
BY THE
WAY, THEY
CALL ME
THE ANT.

ANT?

OKAY.

SO...
WHAT'S
YOUR
STORY?

NO
DIFFERENT
THAN YOURS.
I SUSPECT. I
RISK MY LIFE
TRYING TO MAKE
SURE THINGS
LIKE THIS DON'T
TOUCH ALL
THE NORMAL
FOLKS.

A black and white comic panel showing the red alien standing in a trench. It is looking towards the right. A speech bubble is in the top left.

DIDN'T
DO SUCH A
GREAT JOB OF
THAT TODAY...AND
WHAT'S WORSE?
THERE'S MORE, LOTS
MORE, WHERE HE
CAME FROM. WE
COULD USE
SOME EXTRA
MUSCLE.

A black and white comic panel showing Spawn looking up at the red alien. A speech bubble is in the top right.

WE?



YES. THERE'RE ALSO MORE LIKE ME. YOU'RE NOT ALONE BY ANY STRETCH.

HOW MANY?

ENOUGH. I HOPE.

WE'RE HEADING DOWN TO NEW MEXICO. THERE'S A STRONGHOLD THERE.



RUN BY A MAN NAMED ALZAYAH STONE. I'VE RECRUITED MORE HELP BUT LIKE I SAID, WE COULD ALWAYS USE MORE.

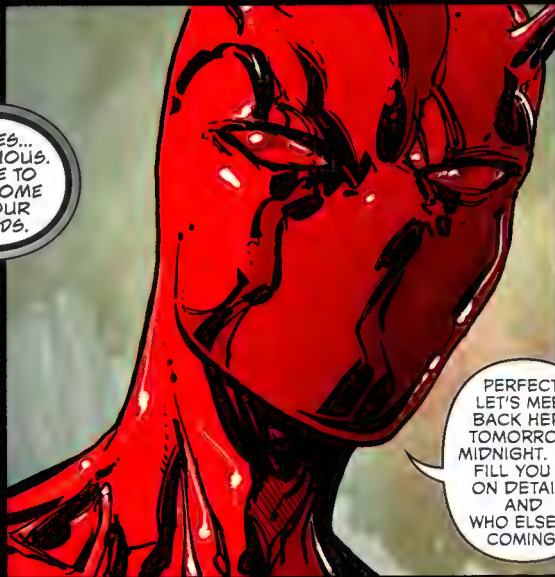
SO...



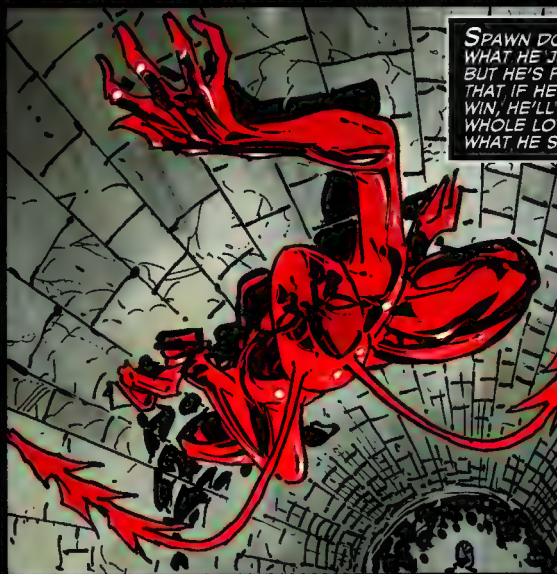
YOU GOT ANY PLANS THE NEXT FEW DAYS?

DON'T THINK SO.

BESIDES... I'M CURIOUS. I'D LIKE TO MEET SOME OF YOUR FRIENDS.



PERFECT. LET'S MEET BACK HERE TOMORROW. MIDNIGHT. I'LL FILL YOU IN ON DETAILS AND WHO ELSE IS COMING.



SPAWN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE JUST AGREED TO, BUT HE'S FULLY AWARE THAT IF HE EXPECTS TO WIN, HE'LL NEED TO GET A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN WHAT HE SHOWED TODAY.



A WHOLE LOT BETTER.

TO BE CONTINUED...

SAVIOR



EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE?

A mysterious man appears — with no background, no memory and no place to call home. But he has powers that resemble those we learned about in Sunday School. Is it possible that he is our 'SAVIOR' in the flesh? And if he is, then why doesn't he know who he is or how he got his unique abilities?

Some will see him as a hero...or more. Others will see him as an enemy with God-like powers, here to disrupt the status quo of what we already believe. Many will rally behind him, while many others will denounce him. But none of us will be able to ignore him.

Written by industry greats **Todd McFarlane** (*Spawn*, *Spider-Man*, *Hulk*, *Haunt*) and **Brian Holguin** (*Spawn*, *Spawn: The Dark Ages*, *Kiss*) and beautifully painted by fan favorite artist, **Clayton Crain** (*Ghost Rider*, *X-Force*, *Carnage*, *Rai*), *SAVIOR* will give you something to believe in... but is it what you expected?

The *SAVIOR* trade paperback collects the entire 8-issue mini-series into one thick volume — that's 40 extra pages for free — all for the same low price as a regular trade paperback.



SAVIOR
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SPAWNING GROUND

Hello all!

I hope you found this issue as exciting, and enjoyed it as much as I did! For those of you who may not know, this latest issue actually sets up next month's awesome SPAWN/SAVAGE DRAGON crossover! Erik's art is starting to roll in, and from what I've already seen, it is going to be an UNBELIEVABLE issue! Be sure to look for Spawn #266 and Savage Dragon #217 at your local comic store!

And as always, if you are not following Todd on social media, what are you waiting for?! He has practically taken over Facebook with all of his LIVE videos as of late! The videos range from drawing tutorials, giveaways, sneak peaks of upcoming products, and naturally... Todd drawing cool stuff! Even though I get to see Todd draw everyday (humble brag, I know), it still amazes me to see him turn a few squiggly lines into a work of art! Oh, and did I mention these videos are LIVE?! So who knows what else can happen? We've also added two channels to our YouTube page of Todd's tutorials and drawings, yet another stop to get all things McFarlane! Be sure to follow Todd at [facebook/likeToddMcFarlane](https://www.facebook.com/likeToddMcFarlane) and [twitter @Todd_McFarlane](https://twitter.com/Todd_McFarlane).

This week Todd went to Twitter with this question: "What villain would you like to see make a comeback?" (I know he's done this question before, but he's cooking something up for the upcoming issues!!) Thanks for all the great responses online! See you next month!

Cheers,
Shannon Bailey
Publishing Coordinator



What villain
would you like
to see make a
comeback?

The Redeemer
@JeremyMegertArt

Malebolgia
@Raccoonrox

Bludd. Did we ever see
him outside of Image
Zero?
@dzolondek

Overtkill
@kev_toons

Donald Trump
@roc_an_rol

The Freak
@SonofBillyLynn

Mammon
@CJTheArchitect

Chap or Overtkill
@c0d3ster

Something new
@bullseyext2

The Freak
@EnigmaHLM

Cy-Gor
@DesertPunkDwarf

Billy Kincaid
@robsonink

Echoing Chapel
@sunchick8

I want to see a
disturbed philosophy
teacher who justifies
his murder of his
students...Then Spawn
kills him.
@TomasHennerfors

Anti-Spawn
@Bizarnage

Chapel would be a
great challenge for Al
now that he no longer
has powers.
@OrisonSTARBOY

The Redeemr. Heap
was always interesting
too.
@chiodos_13

I was a fan of Curse
@D_E_M_O_N_I_X

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NEXT ISSUE

Spawn/Savage Dragon crossover!



SPAWN KILLS EVERYONE!
IN STORES NOW

IN A.D. 1220, HELL COMES TO EARTH

LAKE OF FIRE™

NATHAN FAIRBAIRN

MATT SMITH



DOUBLE-SIZED FIRST ISSUE

AVAILABLE NOW FROM IMAGE COMICS

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ALSO AVAILABLE BY
ERIK LARSEN
SAVAGE DRAGON

**MONTHLY
ISSUES**



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PAPERBACKS**



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image



(a)(b)(c)

The

(e)(f)

Black Monday

Murders

(g)(h)(i)(j)

TBBM is classic occult indoctrination where the secret schools of magic are actually clandestine banking cartels who control all of society -- A hidden world where vampire Russian oligarchs, Black Popes, enchanted American aristocrats, and hitmen from the International Monetary Fund work together to keep ALL OF US in our rightful place.

EACH ISSUE contains world-expanding bonus content like maps, corporate organization charts, decoded apocrypha and stock tips to die for.

THE BLACK MONDAY MURDERS is a brand new, crypto-noir series about dirty, filthy money...and what kind of people you can buy with it.

(image comics)

Hickman /Coker

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